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To: "fr0001@ustr.gov" <fr0001@ustr.gov>
Date: Wed, Nov 7, 2001 4:31 PM
Subject: Request for Exclusion - Section 203 of the Trade Act

Ms Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary
Trade Policy Staff Committee
Office of the USTR, 600 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ms Blue:

Evtac Mining is a taconite processing mine and plant located on the Iron Range of northeastern Minnesota. Our current production is approximately four million, two hundred fifty thousand tons of iron ore pellets per year.

In order to process taconite into pellets, we must drill, blast and mine the taconite and then crush, grind and pelletize this natural resource into a shipable product. It is in the grinding process where we must use a product called a grinding rod .

AltaSteel HTR 50 grinding rods are made using a unique and proprietary heat treatment process. Grinding rods are hot rolled and heat treated in a patented process in order to meet our specific physical requirements. We use 4 inch diameter x 19 ft 6 in and 4 inch diameter x 20 ft rods. Heat treated grinding rod is high carbon steel with specific alloy levels and heat treatment procedures to produce a martensite case with a bainite/pearlite core.

AltaSteel HTR50 grinding rods are produced with a proprietary process to specific hardenability and hardness incorporating the supplementary requirements S6 and S11 of ASTM A322. Grinding rods enter the United States under HTR# 7228.30.8050.

We request an exclusion because Alta Steel is the only supplier of heat treated grinding rods in North America. They are located in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada and are currently supplying over 50 different customers, of which more than half are located in the United States. There are no producers of heat treated grinding rods in the United States. We currently consume approximately 5000 tons of grinding rods annually although we believe they ship over 30,000 tons of these heat treated grinding rods into the United States each year. As you can see, an addition of a tariff would only add to our costs.

Alta Steel produces heated treated grinding rods to US patent number 5,902,423 -Heat Treatment of Grinding Rod (HTR50).

We appreciate the opportunity to request this exclusion and if there are any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

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